

OKLAHOMA'S

AMBER PLAN

Oklahoma's Child Abduction Recovery System

1-877-OKAMBER

1-877-652-6237

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Oklahoma's Amber Alert Plan (Amber Plan) was developed out of a desire to use maximum public participation to recover children in only the most serious child abduction situations, through a coordinated effort of the use of the media, law enforcement, technology and the public. The Amber Plan is a cooperative agreement among the Office of the Governor, the Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters, and various law enforcement agencies in the state of Oklahoma. The Amber Plan is an early warning system available for use by law enforcement through the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (OLETS) to alert the public when a child has been abducted and law enforcement believes the child is in immediate danger. It is believed that the early warning distributed by the state radio and television Emergency Alert System (EAS) will coerce a child abductor into releasing a child, for fear of being apprehended.

OKLAHOMA'S AMBER PLAN REQUIREMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A Law enforcement agency must meet two (2) criteria when evaluating a possible child abduction in order to activate the Amber Plan. Law enforcement agencies **must have both** parts of the scenario present before an activation of the alert can occur. The guidelines are as follows:

The Amber Plan should only be activated when a child **17** years of age or younger, or an individual under proven mental or physical disability is abducted and there is reason to believe the victim is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death.

AND...

There is information available to disseminate to law enforcement agencies and the general public which could assist in the safe recovery of the victim and/or the apprehension of a suspect.

Law enforcement should make a concentrated effort to verify that an actual abduction has taken place, but some margin for error must be tolerated. If the above guidelines are met except there is no concrete confirmation of an abduction, then Law Enforcement should consider issuing a **Missing Endangered Juvenile Alert** through (OLETS). Each case under this scenario should be independently evaluated.

1. The Amber Plan **is not** activated for every child abduction or child custody dispute. The Amber Plan is activated only when the specific requirements of the Amber Plan are met.
3. After receiving a report of a possible child abduction, the local law enforcement agency conducts an investigation to determine if the reported child abduction meets the requirements of the Amber Plan. If the investigation determines that an abduction has occurred, the law enforcement agency will fill out the Amber Plan activation form on OLETS. To access the Amber Plan activation form, the law enforcement agency's dispatcher will by simultaneously holding down the 'Ctrl and "G" functions on the computer keyboard and then typing in the word '**Alert**'. The dispatcher then enters information into the form concerning the abduction. When the information has been entered, the information is sent electronically to the DPS Communications Center.

NOTE: If the reporting agency does not have an OLETS Terminal, the agency should contact the OLETS Terminal Agency that services their law enforcement information requests. The reporting agency may contact the OLETS Network Center @ 405-425-2232, should they have any questions or need to contact the Amber Plan Coordinator.

4. The DPS Communication Center, upon receiving the child abduction information, will forward the information to Oklahoma's Amber Alert Coordinator. It is the responsibility of the Amber Alert Coordinator to verify with the reporting agency the information on the abduction prior to issuing the Amber Alert.
5. The Amber Plan is activated by simultaneously utilizing four (4) mediums of communication: 1) Amber Plan information is broadcast over Oklahoma's **State Emergency Alert System (EAS)** through **Clear Channel Communications**, 2) The Amber Plan information is sent electronically through **OLETS** to all law enforcement agencies statewide, 3) programmed 'Amber Alert' messages are sent electronically to Oklahoma's Department of

Transportation *Intelligent Traffic Systems* digital road signs, 4) The Amber Alert is sent via *e-mail* to all participating partners of the 'Public-Private Sector E-mail Database' and those that have supplied cell phone or pager contact information.

6. The information sent through Clear Channel Communications is delivered immediately to all participating radio and television stations throughout Oklahoma. Although the Amber Alert is sent out only once through the State EAS system, participating radio and television stations are requested to announce the Amber Alert information every half hour for the next two hours, then one time per hour for the next three hours.
7. Updates and cancellations concerning the **Amber Alert** will be disseminated to all law enforcement agencies through OLETS by the investigating agency.
8. DPS will provide up-dated or cancellation information to each public-private partner. Each public-private partner is responsible for providing up-dated information or canceling the Amber Alert and any information it has disseminated through its communications systems.
9. The TV and Radio media, by broadcasting frequent public alerts about the descriptions of the victim(s), suspect(s) and other vital information during the first hours of an abduction, is crucial to the recovery to the abducted child.

PARTHICIPATING AGENCIES SHOULD FOLLOW THESE NOTIFICATON AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES:

1. After local law enforcement officials have determined abduction has occurred, the Communications Center of Oklahoma Department of Public Safety will be notified through OLETS and provided with the abduction information. DPS, upon verifying the accuracy and the most current information about the abduction will issue an "**Amber Alert**" via the State Emergency Alert System (EAS).
2. The Department of Public Safety will place photographs of the victim and abductor on the DPS Amber Alert website as soon as they become available.

3. Participating media stations endec should be programmed for Civil Emergency Message (CEM). This is the event code that will be used for an **Amber Alert**. *You must make certain that your receiver is programmed to receive CEM.* An audio tape with the alert is available for testing purposes.
4. The Amber Alert CEM will be delivered to Participating Stations via their EAS receiver. Your receiver may be programmed for an automatic interrupt of programming or delay. If delayed, the alert should be broadcast within 15 minutes of receipt of the alert. Getting the information on the air as soon as possible is the key factor. The most crucial time in an abduction is the first one to two hours.
5. The Participating Stations are asked that for the first two hours you broadcast the information every 30 minutes, then once an hour for the next 3 hours.
6. It is important that we have maximum participation from all Participating Stations as the child abductor may have traveled to your area within the first two or three hours of the abduction.

Prompt broadcasting of an abduction is an integral and important part of the Amber Plan and Oklahoma's statewide child protection network. **If it only saves the life of one child, it is well worth your participation—that one child may be from your community.**

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Recommendations For Participating Law Enforcement Agencies:

1. Each law enforcement agency should have at least one (1) designated reporting officer.
2. Each law enforcement agency should have an assigned phone number that can roll over into at least two (2) separate lines to take the phone calls if the Amber Plan is activated.
3. Each law enforcement agency should have volunteers or personnel identified to take the phone calls for at least 24 hours once the Amber Plan is activated
4. The agency activating the Amber Alert maybe requested to submit supporting documentation concerning the Amber Alert activation to the Amber Plan Committee. At no time would the Amber Plan Committee request documentation or information that would affect a case still being investigated.
7. It is suggested that agencies provide reporting officers with child abduction training when such courses are available. For information on the availability of child abduction training, contact the Amber Alert Coordinator’s Office @ 405-425-2231.
8. Since the activating agency will begin receiving a very high volume of calls almost immediately after activation, the reporting agency is required to have a phone line capable of “rolling over” into two additional lines. This will enable personnel to aid in taking information vital to law enforcement officials.

Requirements For Amber Plan Reporting Officers:

1. Reporting officer must be a certified law enforcement officer.
2. A Representative of the reporting agency must, if requested present a briefing to the Amber Plan Committee at its next meeting following the activation of the Amber Plan.

AMBER PLAN

LAW ENFORCEMENT CHECKLIST

1. IS THE KIDNAPPING ONE IN WHICH THE CHILD VICTIM IS 17 YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER?

IF YES, ANSWER QUESTION 5.

IF NO, ANSWER QUESTION 2.

2. IS THE KIDNAPPING ONE IN WHICH THE CHILD VICTIM HAS A PROVEN MENTAL OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY?

IF YES, ANSWER QUESTION 5.

IF NO, ANSWER QUESTION 3.

3. WAS THE CHILD KIDNAPPING **WTTNESSED** BY ANYONE?

IF YES, ANSWER QUESTION 5.

IF NO, ANSWER QUESTION 4.

4. DID THE CHILD KIDNAPPING INVOLVE ACTS OF VIOLENCE?

IF YES, ACTIVATE THE AMBER PLAN

IF NO, ANSWER QUESTION 5.

5. DO YOU BELIEVE THE CHILD TO BE IN DANGER OF SERIOUS BODILY HARM OR DEATH?

IF YES, ACTIVATE THE AMBER PLAN

IF NO, DO NOT ACTIVATE THE AMBER PLAN

6. THE ALERT MUST CONTAIN A DESCRIPTION OF THE CHILD AND DETAILS OF THE ABDUCTION. THE INVESTIGATING AGENCY SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER NOT ACTIVATING THE PLAN IF THERE IS NO INFORMATION TO SEND OUT.

Department Of Public Safety
Amber Alert Information To Be Sent On OLETS
1-877-OKAMBER / 1-877-652-6237
(Sample)

Agency Data

Reporting Agency: _____

Officer's Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Reporting Agency: _____

Case Data:

	Yes	No*
Is this believed to be a child abduction?	_____	_____
Was this child 17 years of age or younger or an individual under proven mental or physical disability?	_____	_____
Is there reason to believe the victim is in imminent danger or serious bodily injury or death?	_____	_____
Is there information to disseminate to the general public which could assist in the safe recovery of the victim and/or the apprehension of a suspect?	_____	_____

The answer of **No to any of these questions renders the Amber Alert non-applicable.*

Date and time of Event _____

Victim Data #1

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Race _____

Clothing Description _____

Last Known Location _____

Victim Data #2

First Name

Last Name

Race _____

Clothing Description

Suspect Data #1

First

Name _____

Last Name

Race _____

Clothing Description

Suspect Data #2

First
Name_____

Last Name_____

Race_____

Clothing Description_____

Vehicle Data

Color_____ Year_____

Make_____

Model _____ Style_____

License Plate_____ License State_____